

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

National Congress of Parents and Teachers

1201 16th St N W Washington D C



Mrs. John E. Hayes, Twin Falls, Idaho, First Vicepresident, who will serve as Acting President of the Congress during July and August while Mrs. Pettengill is attending the convention of the W.F.E.A. in Tokyo, Japan.

ANNOUNCEMENT

This copy completes Vol. IV of the *National Congress Bulletin*. *Bulletin* subscriptions for 1936-37 expire with this issue. The next number will be published in September. If you wish to continue receiving the *Bulletin*, please fill in the form herewith and send it, with your remittance, to the National Office. Subscription price: 20 cents a year; 5 or more subscriptions sent in at one time, 10 cents a year for each subscription.

National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 1201 16th Street N W Washington D C

Inclosed is 20 cents for which please send me the 10 issues of the NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN for the coming year.

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

P.T.A. and Democracy Topic for N.E.A. Section Meeting

Agnes Samuelson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Des Moines, Iowa, former president of the National Education Association, will be the speaker at the Parent-Teacher Section of the National Education Association Diamond Jubilee Convention, which will take place Monday, June 28, at 2 P.M., at the First Presbyterian Church, Detroit, Michigan. Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, of Detroit, President of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, will preside and lead the panel discussion. "The Contribution of the Parent-Teacher Movement to Democracy" is to be the topic.

An educator from each state is being asked to attend as a representative of the state Congress of Parents and Teachers and to participate in the general discussion following the panel.

Selections by the Verse Speaking Choir of the Hutchins Intermediate School, Detroit, will be a feature of the meeting. Through choric speech, the school provides for voice training, tone production, pronunciation, articulation, ear and eye training, and speech improvement, as well as cooperative experience in group thought and action.

Hutchins School is among the many schools where choric speech is being introduced as an integral part of the curriculum. Wellesley College, Mount Holyoke, the state universities of Wisconsin, Iowa, and California, and many other colleges have verse speaking choirs. English and literature are the subjects with which choric speaking is most commonly associated, although experiments are under way testing its usefulness in such subject matter as history, geography, and other social studies, where the songs, chancies, sayings, and slogans of bygone eras lend themselves to choric presenta-

tion. The most universal illustration of choric speech is the repeating in unison of the Lord's Prayer, the Twenty-third Psalm, and the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag, as well as the group-and-leader reading of scripture and litany in religious service.

The Joint Committee of the N.E.A. and N.C.P.T. will meet immediately following the close of the Parent-Teacher Section meeting. Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, Chairman of the Committee, will present a report at the business session of the Representative Assembly on Thursday, July 1.

Mrs. Pettengill will speak at the second session of the National Education Association Convention on the topic, "Training School Health Personnel: The Fathers and Mothers," on Tuesday, June 29, at 2 P.M., at the Ionic Temple. She will discuss what schools and health workers can do to help fathers and mothers to do their work effectively. Mrs. Pettengill will also preside at Section B of the general session on "Secondary Education," Tuesday, June 29, at 9:30 A.M., at the Masonic Temple.

Motion Picture Investigation

A sweeping investigation of trade practices of the motion picture industry is called for in a resolution (Hobbs H. Res. 160) now before the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives. Facts of tremendous weight in securing action on the Neely-Pettengill motion picture bill may be revealed by such an investigation, Congress members, especially. Legislation and motion picture chairmen, have been advised by the National Legislation Chairman, Mrs. Mary T. Bannerman, to communicate with their Congressmen on the House Rules Committee requesting favorable action on the Hobbs resolution.

New Plans of Work Approved by Executive Committee

New plans of work, prepared by National committee chairmen and approved by the Executive Committee of the Congress at its meeting in Chicago, June 12 and 13, are being sent to state committee chairmen for use in the states. Other plans will be considered by the Executive Committee at its next meeting in September. Following are highlights of plans for National committees on child hygiene, character education, membership, motion pictures and visual education, parent education, recreation, rural service, and safety. Outlines for the guidance of local units are given in the 1937 Parent-Teacher Manual. (Summaries of other plans will appear in the next issue of the BULLETIN, in September.)

CHARACTER EDUCATION—

Dr. Joseph M. Artman,
Chairman

Character education, the central problem in all education, is a necessary center of all P.T.A. activity. Every phase of P.T.A. work is to be considered from the standpoint of character developing possibilities. Use of all available resources of home, school, church, and community in character building is urged. Study of character education work of other agencies, especially the church, school, and youth agencies, is to be fostered. Special attention is to be directed toward fostering cooperation among religious sects in character building programs. Program strategy is to be devised for specific projects such as peace, the alcohol and narcotics problem, and the development of principles by which to live.

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National President: Mrs. J. K. Pettengill
General Secretary: William H. Bristow
Editor: Clarice Wade

CHILD HYGIENE—**Mary E. Murphy,** *Chairman*

Child Hygiene committees are urged to concern themselves with the entire range of childhood and the importance of an adequate program of public health to the health of the individual family. Emphasis is placed upon more active study of the prenatal period and the hygiene of maternity and infancy. Intensive study is recommended on the growth and development of the preschool child because protective measures and home program constitute an important contribution to future development.

Wider acceptance of protective immunization against diphtheria and smallpox, in cooperation with the medical and public health authorities, is advocated. Study of local schools to ascertain their facilities from a health standpoint is recommended. Special attention should be given to acquiring knowledge of local schools, their provisions for medical service, procedure in checking the start of contagious diseases, medical examinations preceding participation in strenuous athletics, and program of health instruction and parent education in matters affecting the health of children.

A study of public health organizations is urged, with consideration of duties, adequate financing, personnel, laws, and ordinances. Educational programs are urged to secure more general knowledge and to create favorable opinion toward public health organizations and measures.

MEMBERSHIP—**Mary England,** *Chairman*

Coordination of the work of the membership committee with that of committees on program, publicity, hospitality, publications, and *National Parent-Teacher* is to be a point of emphasis in membership work. An intensive study of the mortality of local units is to be made in order to find causes and remedies. Father-membership, high-schools, and rural P.T.A.'s are other topics to which special attention will be given. An effort will also be made to enlist the help and interest of school administrators in developing effective parent-teacher associations.

MOTION PICTURES AND VISUAL EDUCATION—**Dr. Edgar Dale,** *Chairman*

Because the motion picture problem is closely related to the larger recreational program, attention must be directed to the problem of adequate playgrounds, good libraries, satisfactory radio programs, and other constructive uses of leisure time. High points of recommended activity are as follows:

1. An educational campaign to acquaint parents with the significant role of motion pictures in influencing children's information, attitudes, sleep, emotions, and conduct.

2. Establishment and promotion of film libraries, with stimulation of wider use of educational films.

3. Introduction into highschool curriculum of courses in motion picture appreciation to develop in youth adequate standards for evaluating social and artistic qualities of films.

4. Support of National legislation which will provide community freedom in the choice of films, without the restrictive influences of certain motion picture trade practices, notably compulsory block-booking and blind-selling.

5. Increased use of motion pictures and other visual materials in P.T.A. meetings, especially of films dealing with child welfare, progressive practice in education, and community and national life.

RECREATION—**J. W. Faust,** *Chairman*

Strengthening and expanding of public recreation programs is the keynote of the plan of work mapped by Mr. Faust, who advises: "We must hold the great gains made in recreation with assistance of Federal emergency recreation education programs. . . . We should guard against the subtle danger of sitting back and expecting the Federal government to do the whole job. . . . The use of tax funds for trained recreation leadership, facilities and programs is just as definite a lien on tax funds as is that of the provision of teachers for education."

Among the highlights of the recreation program are:

(Continued on page 3)

PLANS OF WORK

(Continued from page 2)

1. Work for permanency in the whole recreation program.

2. Work to hold gains, such as volunteer recreation leaders, equipment, supplies, apparatus, participation in play, athletics, art, music, dramatics, crafts, hobbies, beautification of school properties, and use of schools as neighborhood centers.

3. Promote individual or group study about the fundamental reasons for recreation and its place in a program for effective living.

4. Work for all year-round recreation for all ages, under trained leadership, supported by taxes as a social and educational necessity.

SAFETY—Marian L. Telford, Chairman

Safety activities of the Congress may be grouped in two classifications: (1) Continuing activities in safety which are carried on year after year, and (2) special activities now being developed under the Traffic Safety Education Project.

Home accidents, their causes and consequences, are to be a major interest in group one. Suggested activities include student accident reports; gathering accident data from the press, police, health department, hospitals and other sources; junior safety councils, clubs or committees; and encouragement of swimming and first aid classes, preferably with the cooperation of the American Red Cross.

The Traffic Safety Education Project, initiated last year, will continue to seek to develop among P.T.A. members an awareness of traffic accident causes and to encourage home and school cooperation for traffic safety. Materials available under the project are a manual, "Organized Safety by Organized Parents and Teachers"; a leaflet on the causes of traffic accidents; a portfolio of radio programs; a monthly safety news letter; a safety exhibit; supplementary publications; and an effort is being made to provide speakers on safety when requested for state conventions.

Requests for the safety materials should be addressed to the state president, or the National Safety Chairman, Room 1406, 114 East 32nd Street, New York City.

PARENT EDUCATION—Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, Chairman

The plan of the program in parent education covers five phases of work:

1. Stimulating the formation of study groups under lay and professional leadership.

2. Publications for the use of preschool, gradeschool, and highschool study groups.

3. Preparation of study courses and helps for study groups for the *National Parent-Teacher* magazine.

4. Cooperation with the state chairmen of parent education in planning the work for each year.

5. Cooperation with librarians in the establishment of parents' bookshelves, loan packets, and traveling libraries for the use of individual members of parent-teacher associations and of study groups.

SCHOOL EDUCATION—Charl O. Williams, Chairman

Interpretation of problems of education is a primary function of the school education committee. Among problems of current educational interest, the following stand out for strong emphasis: School finance, Federal aid, the school curriculum, teachers and teaching, school buildings, and early childhood education. State chairmen are to work on items which need specific attention in their state.

RURAL SERVICE—Dr. William McKinley Robinson, Chairman

Almost 50 per cent of the local units of the National Congress are located in rural areas (i.e. communities in the open country or centers of 2,500 or less population). It is recommended that each state give study to rural problems to help rural P.T.A.'s function effectively despite handicaps such as isolation, likelihood of non-affiliation with the state and National Congress, lack of specialized services from agencies and trained people, and their relatively small memberships.

FALL BOARD MEETING

The semi-annual meeting of the Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota, September 22-26. The Executive Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 22. The State Presidents' Conference will also be held on Wednesday.

1937-38 Congress Publications

All Congress publications for the 1937-38 Local Unit Package are being shipped by the National Office as instructed by the states. During June and July, *Manuals*, reprints, and leaflets were sent from the office and are being transmitted by each state branch to its local units.

A New Local Treasurer's Record-book and Receipt Book are available from the National Office for 75 cents a set. The account book, bound in leatherette, stamped in gold with the Congress seal, meets a long-felt need and will be welcomed by treasurers.

A new pamphlet, *Preschool Groups*, is being included in quota allotments to the states.

Points at which emphasis will be directed are as follows:

1. Stimulation of rural unit participation in activities in which there is state or nationwide interest, such as safety education, county health units, library service, and school legislation.

2. Utilization by rural P.T.A.'s of resources available in the fields of child welfare and community betterment.

3. Fostering an appreciation of rural life, through cooperation with other committees, such as child health, music, art, parent education and others. Preparation of program material directed toward this end is contemplated.

4. Study of ways and means of insuring high standards of professional excellence for teachers of children in rural schools comparable to those for urban ones. Interest in rural teachers is recommended to all concerned with the welfare of rural children.

News from State Branches

ALABAMA

"A Night With Uncle Remus" was the theme of the banquet at the state convention, when Brer Rabbit and other characters from Uncle Remus mixed philosophy with fun for a gay evening. The printed program contained numerous carefully chosen bits of wholesome advice from the famous colored philosopher and humorist, Uncle Remus. Speakers followed the spirit of the book in developing the topics assigned them.

OREGON

A trial of Youth Versus Society was a feature of the 1937 state convention. The trial took place in the Court of Public Opinion, with Youth, the Plaintiff, versus Society, the Defendant.

Youth charged Society with ignorance of, and indifference to, the lack of leisure time opportunities for Youth. The trial was staged according to the best court procedure and all testimony was given under oath. There was a presiding judge, two attorneys each for the prosecution and the defense, witnesses for each, a clerk of court, court reporter, bailiff, technical advisers, and a jury paneled from the audience and chosen by lot.

The trial was staged for the purpose of helping the people of Portland to understand the vital need of giving support to a coordinated recreational program for youth.

WASHINGTON

A World Fellowship Tour of Seattle's foreign population quarters was sponsored by the Seattle Council recently. Inter-Racial Relations Facts on each of the groups was issued, containing important and interesting data concerning "Our Neighbors in Seattle" of Chinese, Japanese, Jewish, Greek, and Negro races. Some revealing facts: "Very few Chinese are on relief; very few Chinese boys are involved in juvenile delinquency"; "a full recreational and cultural program is carried on among the Greek people"; "Jewish people are active in all civic and cultural affairs"; "Japanese after they leave our schools tend to live to themselves; they suffer as do the Chinese in securing better grade employment."

SOUTH DAKOTA

A home talent benefit show known as the Milk Fund Folies is staged annually in Rapid City to provide milk for school children. The show this year consisted of a half-hour minstrel presentation, followed by specialty vaudeville acts. Dancers, singers and comedians of various kinds and ages either volunteered their aid or were enlisted for the cause.—From *South Dakota Parent-Teacher*.

TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Congress plans to publish a book to be used as a basis for studying Tennessee's public schools. It will be similar to *Our Public Schools*, published by the National Congress.

Mrs. Walter H. Buhlig conducted one-day parent-teacher institutes in Tennessee at the following colleges in June: West Tennessee State Teachers College, Martin Junior College, Austin Peay Normal School, Middle Tennessee State Teachers College, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Chattanooga University, University of Tennessee, East Tennessee State Teachers College.

PENNSYLVANIA

Parent Education Institutes were held in June and July at the following colleges: Pennsylvania State College, Temple University, Thiel College.

UTAH

A P.T.A. regional conference was conducted by the Utah Congress of Parents and Teachers in connection with the summer school at Utah State Agricultural College at Logan, June 21-25.

NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Dear News Gatherer for the NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN and National Parent-Teacher magazine:

This is to remind you that news items for the NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN and the *National Parent-Teacher* are due in the National Office in Washington not later than the first of each month. Printing schedules for both the BULLETIN and Magazine make it necessary for copy to be in the editor's hands several days in advance.

As you know, the Magazine goes to press two months before the date of publication, which means that if space is available for your contribution in the very next issue, it will be at least two months before it can be published. Please bear this in mind in preparing your story. Also, please ask yourself the following questions in choosing subject matter and preparing copy:

1. Is the story likely to be of nationwide interest to our members?
2. Is it written concisely and briefly? (100 to 300 words is the average length of printed items.)

CALENDAR

JUNE 20-25—American Home Economics Association. Annual Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Joint meeting of N.C.P.T. and Home Economics Association, June 22. N.C.P.T. representative, Mrs. William Kletzer.

JUNE 27-JULY 1—National Education Association. Summer convention, Detroit. Parent-Teacher Section meeting, June 28. N.C.P.T. representative, Mrs. J. K. Pettengill.

JUNE AND JULY—P.T.A. courses at summer schools in Alabama, Connecticut, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Tennessee, West Virginia.

JULY 11-16—American Dental Association, Atlantic City.

AUG. 2-7—World Federation of Education Associations. Seventh World Conference, Tokyo, Japan. N.C.P.T. representative, Mrs. J. K. Pettengill.

International Federation of Home and School Biennial Convention at Tokyo, Japan (held simultaneously with World Federation Convention).

AUG. 31-SEPT. 7—World Youth Conference. Under auspices of Federation of League of Nations Societies. Geneva.

SEPT. 22-26—National Board of Managers, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, St. Paul, Minnesota.

OCT. 5-8—American Public Health Association convention, New York City. Held simultaneously: American Association of School Physicians and National Organization for Public Health Nursing.

NOV. 7-13—American Education Week.

DEC. 1-4—American Vocational Association Convention, Baltimore, Maryland.

Home Economics Convention

Mrs. William Kletzer, Vicepresident, represented the National Congress at the joint meeting of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and American Home Economics Association at the Home Economics convention in Kansas City, Missouri on June 22. "Family Life Education Through Community Cooperative Programs" was the meeting topic, and Mrs. Kletzer spoke on "The State Family Education Council in Oregon."